

hf happenings 279

November
2007



HF Happenings via Yahoo Groups HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

South African Radio League Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

December

8 & 9 – ARRL 10 Metre
Contest

9 – PEARS HF QSO Party

16 - Day of Reconciliation

17 – Public Holiday

25 – Christmas Day

26 – Family Day

31 – Closing of the 2007 CQ
DX Marathon

January

1 – New Years Day; Start of
2008 CQ DX Marathon

9 Inland Schools open

12 & 13 Hunting Lions in
the Air

16 Coastal Schools open

18 – 20 PEARS National
VHF/UHF Contest

26 & 27 CQ 160 metre CW
Contest; UBA SSB DX Con-
test

February

9 & 10 SARL HF Field Day

14 Valentine's Day

16 ARRL International CW
23 & 24 CQ WW 160 Me-
tre SSB

25 Closing date HF Field
Day logs

New Survey Says Internet Headed To Gridlock

Hams who see emergency communications over the Internet as the future of traffic handling might want to rethink their position. This, if a new report that predicts that Internet usage could outstrip network capacity worldwide in a couple of years proves to be as accurate as it seems to be.

The advisory firm Nemertes Research conducted the study. The report is the first to assess the Internet infrastructure and current model as well as projected traffic patterns independent of one another. In addition, it says that the Internet access infrastructure, specifically in North America, will cease to be adequate for supporting demand within the next three to five years.

However, that is not all. The Nemertes report says that the cost required to make capacity meet demand is in the area of \$42 billion to \$55 billion in the United States. This would primarily be spent on broadband access capacity. The firm says that figure is 60 to 70 percent beyond the \$72 billion service providers are planning to invest.

Even bigger is the required investment globally to keep data flowing freely across the Internet. It's estimated at \$137 billion, again primarily in broadband access."

If the reports authors are correct, Internet users could increasingly encounter Internet brownouts or other interruptions to their applications they use online. For example, it may take more than one attempt to confirm an online purchase or it may take longer to download the latest video from a site like YouTube. In addition, for hams trying to communicate using radio to Voice over Internet Protocol technology it could mean a major slowdown in message delivery speed. In addition, when lives are at stake, such a roadblock would be intolerable.

The bottom line: Radio amateurs involved in emergency communications might want to consider keeping an all radio backbone system in place, just in case Internet based message

delivery disappears at the moment it's needed the most.



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African DX

Islands around Africa do not count for the SARL All Africa Award

Guinea Bissau, J5. The "F6KOP TEAM" is planning a DXpedition to Guinea Bissau on Bubaque Island (AF-020 and WLOTA 1145) between 11 to 21 January 2008. Their call sign will be J5C. This past week the team announced that Serge, F6AML, had to cancel his participation for personal reasons. Jean-Marc, F8IXZ, (ex-6W1/F8IXZ, 6W4/F8IXZ, TMOGAY, F8IXZ/D44AC, 5H1C), a CW operator, will join the F6KOP team and will go in place of Serge. For up-to-date info, visit their Web pages at <http://www.j5c.eu>

Gabon, TR. Roland, F8EN, will once again be active as TR8CR (possibly with a special call sign) from Libreville from 7 December to 12 January. Activity will be mostly on 20 metres (14005, 14125/200 kHz). There is a possibility that Roland may make a short operation from an island in the AF-043 IOTA group. QSL via F6AJA or F8EN.

Pirate Alert

FR7BB - Marcel, F6EKB (ex-FR7BB), does not know anything about this call sign being reissued. It was recently heard on the air. Marcel left Reunion Island in 1976 and was 3X0HNU until 1993. By the way, he still has his logs.

News from Spain

Effective 24 November 2007, Spanish Amateur Radio operators were authorised use of 7100 - 7200 kHz on a secondary basis, using a total radiated power not exceeding 24 dBW. Spanish amateurs also gained access to the 51 - 52 MHz band giving them use of 50 - 52 MHz with a maximum power of 100 watts, except in the centre of the country where the power is limit is 10 watts.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 03 to 10 December 2007

NCCC CW Sprint
03:30 - 04:00 UTC 7 Dec
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 9 December 2007
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.htm

ARRL 10-Meter Contest
00:00 UTC 8 Dec to 24:00 UTC 9 Dec
Mode: CW, Phone
Bands: 10m Only
Classes: Single Op - QRP, Low or High - CW, Phone or Mixed; Multi-Single
Max operating hours: 36 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts;
QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: W/VE: RST and State/Province;
DX: RST and Serial No; MM: RST and



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ITU Region; US Novice/Tech Plus sign call with /N or /T on CW

QSO Points: Phone QSO: 2 points; CW QSO: 4 points; Novice/Tech Plus CW QSO: 8 points

Multipliers: States and DC, once per mode; Provinces/Territories, once per mode; DXCC Countries, once per mode; ITU Regions (MM only), once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (State mults and Province mults and DXCC mults and ITU mults)

Submit logs by: 9 January 2008

E-mail logs to: 10meter@arrl.org

Mail logs to: 10 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at:

www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/10-meters.html

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 9 Dec

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Name, state, province or country and SKCC No or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member

QSO per band; Bonus Points: 10 points per

Tribune member QSO per band; Bonus

Points: 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 16 December 2007

E-mail log summary to: bill@nt9k.com

Post log summary at:

www.nt9k.com/skcc/sf.htm

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

www.nt9k.com/skcc/wknd-sprint-rules.html

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 01:30 UTC - 03:30 UTC 12 Dec

NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally, 00:00 UTC 13 Dec to 02:00 UTC 17 Dec

NCCC CW Sprint, 03:30 UTC - 04:00 UTC 14 Dec

MDXA PSK Death Match, 00:00 UTC 15 Dec to 24:00 UTC 16 Dec

OK DX RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 15 Dec

Croatian CW Contest, 14:00 UTC 15 Dec to 14:00 UTC 16 Dec

Feld Hell Sprint, 15:00 UTC-17:00 UTC 15 Dec

International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 15 Dec to 15:59 UTC 16 Dec

ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint, 20:00 - 24:00 UTC 16 Dec

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 Dec

The PEARS HF QSO Party

Aim. For DX operators and South African stations make as many contacts with other South African stations on HF as possible.

Contest Period. The second Sunday in December, the contest runs from 12:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC (09 December 2007) - 14:00 to 18:00 CAT

Modes and Frequencies. The mode is SSB only. The following frequencies shall be used - 3.603 - 3.800 MHz and 7.043 - 7.100 MHz



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Entrance Categories: There are four entrance categories - Novice - Stations in South Africa with ZU prefixes; Restricted - Stations in South Africa with ZR prefixes; Unlimited - Stations in South Africa with ZS prefixes and DX - stations outside of South Africa.

Station Requirements. There are no limitations on the power of stations, or the number of operators, or the location of station equipment except that all operators shall operate within the limits of their licenses at all times.

Points

A contact between two ZU stations scores 5 points

A contact between two ZR stations scores 2 points.

A contact between a ZU station and a ZR/ZS station scores 3 points

A contact between a ZS station and a ZR/ZS station scores 1 point.

A contact between a ZU station and a DX station scores 5 points.

A contact between a ZR/ZS station and a DX station scores 1 point.

Only one contact with each station on each band counts. Points can be claimed for multiple contacts with the same station on different bands.

Exchange. Call signs, signal report and the operator's name

Awards. DX - An award will be made to the top entrant. Novice, Restricted and Unlimited - An award will be made to the top 2 entrants in each category. Awards will only be issued for 2nd place if 5 or more logs are received in the respective category.

Logs. Logs can be sent via snail-mail to: PEARS QSO Party, PO Box 5277, Walmer, 6070, Republic of South Africa or via email to contest@zs2pe.co.za. Closing date for submission of logs is 31 December 2007. No late submissions will be considered. Results will be announced via the PEARS website and HF Happenings by the third weekend of January.

Australia Issues Worlds Longest Special Event Call Sign

The Australian Communications and Media Authority have issued what might be the longest call signs in the history of ham radio for a special event. ACMA, as its better known has made available to the Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club the call sign VI2BMARC50, to commemorate the club's 50th anniversary.

VI2BMARC50 - yep it is a mouthful - well - it will be on-air for 10 days early next year. Listen out for it from 18 to 28 January 2008.

Details of the operating schedule and QSL information will be posted on the club's website. It is in cyberspace at www.bmarc.org. And that URL is a lot easier to say than VI2BMARC50.

2007 ARRL 10 Metre Contest Rules

Object: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 metre band.

Date and Contest Period: Second full weekend of December. Starts 00:00 UTC Saturday and ends 23:59 UTC Sunday (8 & 9 December 2007). All stations operate no more



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than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period. Listening time counts as operating time.

Entry Categories:

- Single Operator: (nine categories)
- QRP - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only or CW only
- Low Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only or CW only
- High Power - Mixed Mode (Phone and CW); Phone only or CW only
- Multi-operator, Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only). Includes single operators using packet or spotting assistance.

Contest Exchange:

- W/VE stations (including Hawaii and Alaska) send signal report and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC).
- Novice and Technician Plus stations sign /N or /T on CW. If used, you must indicate /N or /T on your summary sheet.
- DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc) transmit signal report and sequential serial number starting with 001.
- Maritime mobile stations send signal report and ITU Region (R1, R2 or R3).

Scoring:

QSO points:

- Two points for each complete two-way phone QSO
- Four points for each two-way CW QSO
- Eight points for CW QSOs with US Novice or Technician Plus stations signing /N or /T (28.1 to 28.3 MHz only)

Multipliers: (per mode, phone and CW).

- Each US state and the District of Columbia
- Canada [NB (VE1, 9), NS (VE1), QC (VE2), ON (VE3), MB (VE4), SK (VE5), AB (VE6), BC (VE7), NWT (VE8), NF, (VO1), LB (VO2)], YT (VY1), PEI (VY2) NU (VYØ)
- DXCC countries (apart from US and Canada). KH6 and KL7 participate and count as US states and send HI or AK as that part of their exchange.
- ITU regions (maritime mobiles only)

Final Score: Multiply QSO points by total multipliers (the sum of states/VE provinces/DXCC countries/ITU regions per mode).

- Example: KA1RWY works 2245 stations including 1305 phone QSOs, 930 non-Novice CW QSOs, 10 Novice CW QSOs, for a total of 6410 QSO points. She works 49 states, 10 Canadian call areas, 23 DXCC entities and a maritime mobile station in Region 2 on Phone and 30 states, 8 Canadian call areas, and 19 DXCC countries on CW for a total multiplier of 140. Final score = 6410 (QSO points) X 140 (multiplier) = 897,400 points.

Miscellaneous:

- Single operator mixed-mode and multi-operator stations may work stations once on CW and once on SSB.
- Your call sign must indicate your DXCC country if competing as DX. (N6TR in Oregon does not send N6TR/7, but K1NO in Puerto Rico must send K1NO/KP4).
- All entrants may transmit only one signal on the air at any given time.
- All CW contacts must take place below 28.3 MHz.



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Awards: Certificates will be awarded to:

- The highest-scoring single-operator station (in each category) from each ARRL/RAC Section and DXCC country.
- The top scoring Novice/Technician Plus station (in each category) in each ARRL Section.
- Top multi-operator entries in each ARRL Division, Canada and each continent.
- Additional certificates will be awarded as participation warrants.

Miscellaneous:

- All electronic logs (computer generated) must submit an ASCII text file of the log information in Cabrillo file format. Paper printouts of the electronic file are not acceptable substitutes.
- Hand-written paper logs are acceptable submissions.
- All entries must be emailed or postmarked by 9 January 2008.
- Email entries only to: 10meter@arrl.org. Submissions require Cabrillo log file with all required information (including exchange sent, category entered, power and ARRL/RAC section - see General Rules for specific file format).
- Electronic files not in Cabrillo file format may be designated as check logs.
- Paper entries should be mailed to 10-Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.
- Paper entries must be submitted on current ARRL entry forms or an acceptable facsimile.
- Forms are available for downloading at the Contest Branch Homepage at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms>
- Forms are available for an SASE sent to the Contest Branch.
- Logs may be submitted via the web applet at www.b4h.net/cabforms
- See General Rules for All ARRL Contests and General Rules for ARRL Contests on bands below 30 MHz (HF) on the ARRL Web.
- General queries should be directed to the Contest Branch at contests@arrl.org or by calling (860) 594-0232.



Worm's eye view of the Opti-17 beam at ZS9X

Emergency Frequencies IARU Reg 1 - 21.360 - 18.160 - 14.300 - 7.060 - 3.760 MHz



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